

PUBLIC NOTICE – ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comments on an Environmental Assessment and Federal Consistency Certification for the proposed relocation of the threshold to Runway 4-22 at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) in Arlington County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: December 11, 2007 through January 11, 2008

TYPE OF RESPONSE: Environmental Assessment and Federal Consistency Certification.

DEQ is reviewing an Environmental Assessment and Federal Consistency Certification submitted for the proposal that addresses the range of potential environmental impacts that could result from the implementation of the project, and to determine its consistency with the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program, as approved under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT: The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) has submitted a License Modification Application to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The MWAA intends to provide additional public parking space at DCA during construction of an additional parking deck on each of Garages A and B/C. Construction of the additional parking decks will result in a temporary loss of approximately 350-400 parking spaces. The proposed action would result in up to 560 additional parking spaces in an existing inactive temporary lot at the south end of Runway 4-22 to replace those lost during construction of the additional parking decks. To accomplish this MWAA would implement a temporary change in the classification of Runway 4-22 and reduce the runway approach category to include the full safety areas at both approach ends to the runway. Because of the proximity of the Potomac River to the threshold of Runway 22, the Safety Area associated with the runway will be established by relocating the threshold of Runway 22 approximately 600 feet to the southwest, effectively shortening the runway by 600 feet. The pavement affected by the shift would be reclassified as a taxiway. The runway edge lights would be relamped to correspond to the new threshold, and blue lenses installed on the 600-foot segment being reclassified as a taxiway. The Runway End Identifier Lights (REIL's) and the runway threshold lights will be relocated and the Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI) associated with Runway 22 will be temporarily placed out of service for the duration of the threshold relocation. The net impact of the proposed changes is to temporarily reduce the declared distances for departing aircraft on Runway 4, to reduce the largest category of aircraft permitted on the runway from Category C to Category A and/or B, and to eliminate departures and arrivals on Runway 22 as well as arrivals to Runway 4. The change would be temporary (effective winter 2007) and is expected to last for a period of 2-5 years, at which time a decision will be made by the Authority whether to apply for an extension of the temporary designation or to make the changed designation permanent.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax, or U.S. Mail (see below). All comments must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. A copy of the Draft EA, which includes the Federal Consistency Certification, is available for public review during business hours at the following locations:

Arlington County Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St, Arlington, VA 22201;
Aurora Hills Branch Library, 735 S. 18th St, Arlington, VA, 22202;
Department of Environmental Quality, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219; and
Federal Aviation Administration, Washington Airports District Office, 23723 Air Freight Lane, Suite 210, Dulles, Virginia, 20166.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NAME: Ellie Irons, OEIR Manager or John Fisher, EIR Coordinator
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